

District III Advisory Board Minutes
March 5, 2008
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The District III Advisory Board meeting was held at 7 p.m. at the Wichita Water Center at 101 E Pawnee. Ten District Advisory Board members were in attendance; 10 City staff and 37 members of the public were present (six did not sign in).

Members Present

Teresa Cook
Judy Dillard
Charlotte Foster
Jim Gulick
Joann Hartig
John Kemp
DeWayne Kitchen
Georgia Lambke
Bill Ward
Council Member Jim Skelton

Staff Present

Off. Barry Gomes, Patrol South
Off. Chris Welsh, Patrol South
Off. Dan Oblinger, Patrol East
Off. Claudale Cavanaugh, Patrol South
Shawn Mellies, Public Works
Gary Janzen, Public Works
Chris Carrier, Public Works
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Services
Capt. Max Tenbrook, WPD
Forrest Nagley, Transit

Members Absent

Paula Hearn
Billie Tucker

Guests

Listed on the last page

ORDER OF BUSINESS

At 7 p.m. **Council Member Skelton** called the meeting to order. The meeting minutes from Feb 6, 2008, were approved.

PUBLIC AGENDA

Scheduled items

No scheduled items.

Non-Scheduled items

Odean Moore, 6146 S. Lulu, had some questions regarding Federally-funded housing improvement programs. **Council Member Skelton** encouraged her to call his office to set up an appointment.

STAFF REPORTS

Community Police Report

Officer Claudale Cavanaugh, Patrol South, Beat 26, reported that auto thefts are up in her beat and even though it's not a crime to leave your car running and unattended, it's not very smart. She reported that gang graffiti is also up in her beat.

Officer Barry Gomes, Patrol South, Beat 28, reported that overall crime is down in his beat. He said they did have a robbery at the After Dark video store, but the suspect tried to claim that it was

just a prank. He also reported that a new HipHop club is set to open near 31st and Seneca and WPD has some concerns about the potential criminal element this club will draw.

Officer Dan Oblinger, Patrol East, Beat 36, reported that things have been quiet on his beat. He said that Patrol East is offering educational classes and groups can contact him if they would like a presentation. He said the class on drug recognition is one of the more popular classes.

Action: Receive and file.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Skelton asked if there were any objections to switching the order of the agenda items and letting Transit present first. There were no objections.

Five-Year Transit Development Plan

Ted Reich, TranSystems, and Forrest Nagley, Wichita Transit, reported that TranSystems has been selected to develop a Transit Development Plan (TDP) to guide Wichita Transit in providing public transportation services for Wichita.

The following tasks comprise the scope of services for the TDP:

- Review and analysis of previous planning efforts, system goals and objectives, land use information, and socioeconomic data,
- A marketing research campaign,
- Recommendations for new or restructured fixed-route service,
- Review and analyze available financial resources and costs,
- Identification of alternative transit services for outlying areas and reactive strategies for Wichita Transit should Wichita's air quality reach nonattainment status, and
- Development of possible implementation procedures, actions, and improvements that are in line with Wichita Transit's current and anticipated future budgets.

Charlotte Foster had a question regarding air quality. **Reich** explained that if Wichita becomes a "non-attainment" area, then Transit wants to be in a position to proactively address that issue.

Joann Hartig said she lives on Main Street and would appreciate it if the buses would adhere to the speed limit on that street. She also pointed out the need for the buses to run later in the evening – at least until 6 or 7 p.m.

Jim Gulick said that the City looked at "outlying areas" for service several years ago and wanted to know if something had changed. **Reich** said he didn't know, but they would be looking again at those opportunities.

Bill Ward wanted to know what the budget breakdown is between the buses and the vans. **Nagley** said para-transit is a little over \$1 million and the balance – around \$9 million is the buses.

Jim Gulick asked what it costs per person per ride on the van. **Nagley** said it costs \$16 to \$17 per ride and the actual fare is \$2.50. **Gulick** also wanted to know if the review of the list of qualified, handicapped riders had proven beneficial. **Nagley** said yes, that Transit had saved around \$.5

million as a result of the review. He said the review will now be conducted every three years, to insure that only those who truly qualify for the service are able to use it.

Council Member Skelton said he would like to see the bus service extended outside of Wichita to the Oaklawn area where Youthville, the State foster care provider, has an office. **Reich** said they would take a look at that.

Action: Provide comment.

Storm Water Sewer to serve the area between Hydraulic and Washington from 43rd Street to 47th Street South

Gary Janzen, Public Works Engineering, presented information on a proposed project that would provide a drainage system for the entire neighborhood. The new drainage system would facilitate the future paving of dirt streets in the area, and would allow the cost of the drainage for this area to be spread fairly and equitably among all property owners in the benefit district.

The majority of the neighborhood generally bounded by Hydraulic, Washington, 47th Street South and 43rd Street South is served by dirt streets, with bar ditches for drainage. For many years, petitions have been requested from area property owners for paving individual street sections. To date all paving petitions have been unsuccessful, in large part because the cost of drainage improvements to the area would be borne by the petitioners in any one single block. On January 22, 2008, a neighborhood meeting was held to discuss a proposed area-wide drainage project, which Public Works-Engineering Division is recommending to be ordered in by the City Council.

Charlotte Foster wanted to know why the pipes depicted on the rendering weren't connected. **Janzen** explained how the new pipes connect to existing pipe.

DeWayne Kitchen wanted to know how many unsuccessful petitions have been circulated in the area. **Janzen** said he didn't know for sure, but he was aware of 3 or 4 on Ellis Street just in the past couple of years.

Jim Gulick wanted to know if the existing drainage areas are large enough to handle this additional drainage. **Janzen** said yes.

Judy Dillard said she had some concerns about that and that she had seen the runoff pond in Emery Park full bank to bank and almost overflowing.

Teresa Cook asked for clarification on the "order in" process that can be exercised by local government. **Janzen** said that State Statute gives the governing body – the City Council – the right to "order in" a project such as the one being discussed.

Bill Ward wanted to know if not doing this project would have a negative impact on future growth and development. **Janzen** said that's hard to say, but it certainly wouldn't hurt.

Larry Stowe, 1400 E. 44th St. S., questioned whether the four additional lines shown in the rendering would be adequate. **Janzen** said they would be more than adequate and the City won't put in any more outlets than necessary in order to minimize the cost.

George Knowles, 4645 S. Hydraulic, said every time it rains his property floods and it never did that until after the improvements were made on Hydraulic. **Janzen** said his staff had checked that situation after the last meeting, and did not find water standing after the last heavy rain, but that they would continue to check on it. He said they also plan on running a camera through the line to make sure there isn't a blockage.

Teresa Smith, 4500 S. Ida, said she just got a 13 percent increase in her property appraisal, with food and gas going up, and the economy headed into a recession, she can't afford to pay for something that is just going to sit idle until someone decides to pave a road. **Smith** said it's hard for her to see this as a "benefit" when she doesn't want her street paved and she's going to be taxed for something she's not using. She said that's the idea behind the petition process and requiring 51 percent. **Smith** said she felt like the proposed project was taxation without representation.

Gene Campbell, 4701 Ida, said he has lived at his property for 50 years and has seen a lot of changes in that time. He said Boeing lost the contract for the tankers and most of the people who live in the neighborhood are either retired, or have something to do with aircraft. **Campbell** said he believes he should have a say in how his tax dollars are spent and shouldn't be bullied into doing what the City wants.

James Keene, 4655 S. Ida, said the proposed project is an expensive proposition and he can't afford another \$1,200 a year in taxes. He suggested the project be put on hold until the economy is better.

Neil Doctorman, 1100 E. 45th St. S., said rather than have storm sewers ordered in, he would like to have the ditches cleaned out.

Richard Hill, 4555 Laura, said years ago he didn't purchase the house he really wanted because it had specials on it and he believes that having specials on his property would make it less marketable. **Hill** said if someone wants their street paved, then they should bear the cost of the storm sewer as well because most people in the area don't want their streets paved.

Darin Miranda, 4631 S. Laura, said he e-mailed the DAB members and only heard back from two of them. He said that the deferral really isn't a deferral because you have to pay it back when you sell the house. He said the people who live in the area need to be able to reinvest their money in their homes, especially since we are in a recession. Miranda said they would like to see the dirt streets leveled.

Steve Thompson, 4422 Ida, said he doesn't see any benefit to him and he doesn't understand how it's fair that he has to pay for something he's not going to use. He said he sees a lot of houses in the area selling so he doesn't think that dirt streets are a problem and it's not a good idea and not what the people want.

Gary Cooper, 4617 S. Ida, wanted to know why the issue couldn't be put to a vote. **Janzen** reviewed the petition process again. **Chris Carrier** explained that these types of projects are tough to get approved, for the very reasons that are being cited tonight. He said that's why State law allows local government to "order in" a project, because people don't always see the benefit.

Janzen clarified that the average cost to most property owners in the area would be around \$20 per month.

Charlotte Foster wanted to know if the project could be paid for by CIP funds. **Council Member Skelton** said no.

John Kemp said he has lived in his house for 26 years and there were four houses on Dunham that consistently flooded. He said as building continues in the north part of the city, the more runoff the south end experiences.

Bill Ward wanted to know how many people would sign a street paving petition if they didn't have to bear the cost of the storm sewer. Several citizens indicated they still wouldn't want their street paved.

DeWayne Kitchen said he is against it when the government forces stuff on citizens and that he hadn't heard anything from the City that would indicate that storm water is currently a problem in the area.

Kitchen (Lambke) moved that the DAB deny the staff recommendation to order in the storm sewer.

The motion passed 6-3.

Action: Recommended against ordering in storm water sewers in the area between Hydraulic and Washington and 43rd to 47th Street.

BOARD AGENDA

Updates, Issues and Reports

Kemp reported the reconstruction of the creek near Hillside is going well. He also noted that the repairs that the City did on the storm sewer in his area helped significantly with the flooding on Dunham Street.

Cook said that Municipal Court Judge Brown recently spoke at their neighborhood association meeting. She also noted that she has received complaints about the trains that pass by Clark Street throughout the night blowing their horns. **Council Member Skelton** said he will be attending a meeting in a couple of weeks to discuss the future of rail crossings.

Foster said things have been pretty quiet in her neighborhood and Fabrique won't have a March meeting. She wanted to know why Amtrak can't use the old Union Station. **Council Member Skelton** said that issue has really been discussed – right now it's just an idea.

Dillard expressed concerns about the future of the 47th Street project and said she feels like it's now on the back table. **Council Member Skelton** said it is currently second on the list of the Council's Federal priorities.

Hartig let the Council member know that the City Council Agenda on the website is now very difficult to open because it includes the entire packet and not just the agenda itself. She also reported that 1735 S. Main is being torn down. **Hartig** expressed concerns about what is occurring in Environmental Court. She said the Judge gives too many continuances so neighborhood people

feel like nothing is being accomplished. **Council Member Skelton** said he is aware of the concerns regarding Environmental Court.

Ward said Meadowlark is focusing on clean up and painting efforts in their neighborhood.

Gulick reported Grandview Heights will be discussing enhancements to the park at Mt. Vernon and Bluff and tree planting, at their next meeting.

Lambke reported they continue to have issues on car stereos and said they are looking forward to the new fire station. She also thanked **Council Member Skelton** for his stand on the Cow Town Music Hall issue.

Kitchen also thanked **Council Member Skelton** for his stance on that issue and for consistently standing up for his beliefs. He said Planeview's next meeting will be on April 21 and they have their fall clean up scheduled.

Action: Receive and file.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for District Advisory Board III will be held at 7 p.m., April 2, 2008, at the Water Center at 101 E. Pawnee.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Johnson,
Neighborhood Assistant – District III

Guests

Bill Barnes	2707 S. Hillside
Goldie Barnes	2707 S. Hillside
Commissioner Tim Norton	
Clifford Smith	4530 Ida
Wilma Smith	4530 Ida
Odean Moore	6146 S. Lulu
Ted Reich	
George Knowles	4645 Hydraulic
Robert Hildebrand	1509 E. 46 th St. S.
Norman Tice	4602 Ida
Edgar Mode	4631 Ida
Larry Stowe	1400 E. 44 th St. S.
Neil Doctorman	1100 E. 45 th St. S.
Darin Miranda	4631 S. Laura
Richard Hill	4555 Laura
Cindy Hill	4555 Laura
Gary Cooper	4617 Ida
Richard Matthews	951 E. 43 rd St. S.
Elena Ingle	3608 Meadowlark
Gene Campbell	4701 Ida
Edith Tice	4602 Ida
Teresa Smith	4500 S. Ida
Susan Baayoun	1619 E. Fernwood
Assem Baayoun	1619 E. Fernwood
Debra Cay	4407 S. Ida
Phil Doran	4519 S. Ida
James Keene	4655 S. Ida
Madonna Thompson	4422 Ida
Robert Thompson	4422 Ida
Michael Tolle	4703 Victoria
Wesley Provines	1601 E. 45 th St. S.